SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The amendments to the claims and newly-added Claims 13-15 are supported by the specification and the original claims. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 8-15 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a transparent sheet, comprising a transparent flexible composition layer which comprises 500 to 5,000 parts by mass of a liquid material (B) based on 100 parts by mass of a thermoplastic elastomer component (A), and has a total transmittance of 90% or higher at 25°C and at a thickness of 0.5 mm,

where the thermoplastic elastomer component (A) is a hydrogenated block polymer of a conjugated diene obtained by polymerization without using, as a monomer, an aromatic vinyl compound.

See Claim 1.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Ishiharada et al. is respectfully traversed. Ishiharada et al. fails to disclose the claimed transparent sheet.

The present invention is directed to a transparent sheet and comprises 500 to 5000 parts by mass of a liquid material (B) based on 100 parts by mass of a thermoplastic elastomer component (A). Namely, the present invention has the characteristic of the compounding amount of the liquid material (B) relative to the thermoplastic elastomer component (A) being extremely large. In the case where the compounding amount of the liquid material (B) mentioned above is less than 500 parts by mass, the impact resistance and the viscoelasticity are decreased. See specification paragraph [0037] of the specification.

On the other hand, Ishiharada et al. disclose a light scattering material. The reference discloses that organic transparent liquids (e.g., polyisobutylene) can be used as transparent material (column 4, lines 53-60).

However, Ishiharada et al. do not explicitly describe the amount of the organic transparent liquids.

In this respect, Ishiharada et al. disclose that the compounding amount of the transparent material particles is 0.005 to 50 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the transparent elastomer matrix (see column 5, lines 5-8). Namely, the light scattering material described in Ishiharada et al. has the characteristic of the compounding amount of the transparent material relative to the transparent elastomer matrix being extremely small. Thus, a person skilled in the art reading Ishiharada et al. would ordinarily consider that the compounding amount of the liquid transparent material compounded as the transparent material is at approximately the same level as that of "the transparent material particles".

Therefore, the present invention and the invention described in Ishiharada et al. are completely different in terms of the compounding amount of the liquid material (B).

The invention described in the reference relates to a light scattering body. In this light scattering body, light is scattered at the interface between transparent materials (see column 2, lines 7-37). Thus, in the invention described in Ishiharada et al., if the amount of the the transparent material is too large, it will be difficult to scatter light uniformly. As a result, a person skilled in the art accessing Ishiharada et al. would consider making the compounding amount of the liquid would consider making the compounding amount of the liquid transparent material smaller, in contradiction to the present application invention. Therefore, Ishiharada et al. teaches away from the present invention.

Further, an object of Ishiharada et al. is to provide a light scattering body which is capable of scattering light highly effectively (see column 2, lines 2-6). In Ishiharada et al. there is neither any description, nor any suggestion, of a a transparent sheet which can be easily put on a surface protective plate and a base layer that are constituting a display panel and it is excellent in transparency and is also excellent in impact resistance and viscoelasticity, that is targeted in the present invention. Moreover, in Ishiharada et al., no

technical views whatsoever are contained about what kind of means need to be employed for the purposes of achieving this.

In view of the foregoing, the claimed transparent sheet is not disclosed by Ishiharada et al. Accordingly, the claims are not anticipated by that reference. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed.

The present claims are directed to a solid transparent sheet comprising the thermoplastic elastomer composition. The "total thickness" specified in Claim 4 refers to the total thickness of the transparent sheet.

Claim 1 specifies the hydrogenated block polymer. Claim 14 depends on Claim 13, and Claim 13 positively recite the hydrogenated block polymer.

Claim 15 recites that the thermoplastic elastomer component (A) comprises two or more elastomers: thermoplastic elastomer component (A) = (A-1) + (A-2), see paragraph [0030].

In view of the foregoing, the claims are definite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding the withdrawn method claims, Applicants request rejoinder of those claims under the provisions of MPEP Chapter 800.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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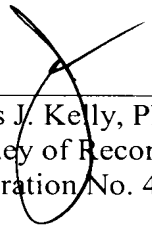

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